Losses in seed producing institutions

†5421. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the public sector seed producing institutions in the country have been continuously running in losses;

(b) if so, the total losses suffered by these Public Sector institutions from 1998-99 to 2000-2001; and

(c) the reasons for these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Of the two Public Sector Undertakings engaged in seed production under the Central Government, State Farms Corporation of India (SFCI) has incurred a loss of Rs. 52.28 crores from 1998-99 to 2000-2001 whereas National Seeds Corporation (NSC) has incurred a loss of Rs. 4.83 crores during 2000-01.

(c) The main reasons for losses have been reduction in turnover due to heavy rains/drought conditions and lack of irrigation facilities, increase in salary and wages of employees on revision of pay scales, interest on loans etc.

Phasing out of Vintage Allowance

5422. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has decided to phase out 5 per cent Vintage Allowance Scheme for fertilizer units with the 7th Pricing Period;

(b) if so, whether the Group of Ministers constituted for the purpose reviewing the 7th and 8th Pricing Period in their recent meeting considered to withdraw Vintage Allowance for the 7th Pricing Period;

(c) if so, to what extent this decision would help the fertilizer units; and

(d) whether the fertilizer companies have welcomed this move?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (d)

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.